

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, February 20th will mark the 20th anniversary of a tragic fire at the Station Nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, that took the lives of 100 people and injured hundreds of others. That horrific fire ripped a hole in our community and left a deep scar on Rhode Island, one which we still feel every day.

But Rhode Islanders are resilient, and we support one another in the face of tragedy. On that night in West Warwick, the heroism of emergency responders and ordinary people saved countless lives. In the wake of that horror, our State came together to mourn and memorialize those we lost and to help each other heal.

Now, two decades after that awful night, I will submit the names of those who were lost into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all of the victims, and to recommit ourselves to promoting fire safety across our country so that such a tragedy can never occur again.

Louis S. Alves, Kevin Anderson, Stacie J. Angers, Christopher Arruda, Eugene Avilez, Tina Ayer, Mary H. Baker, Thomas A. Barnett, Laureen M. Beauchaine, Steven Thomas Blom, William Christopher Bonardi III, Kristine Carbone, William W. Cartwright, Mike Cordier, Alfred Carmina Crisostomi, Robert Croteau, Lisa D'Andrea, Matthew P. Darby, Dina Ann DeMaio, Rachael Florio DePietro, Albert DiBonaventura, Christina DiRienzo, Kevin J. Dunn, Lori Durante, Edward Everett Ervanian, Charline E. Fick, Thomas Fleming, Mark A. Fontaine, Daniel J. Fredrickson and Tracey Romanoff, Michael A. Fresolo, James C. Gahan, Melvin Gerfin Jr., Laura L. Gillett, Michael J. Gonsalves.

James F. Gooden Jr., Derek Gray, Scott C. Greene, Scott Griffith, Jude Henault, Andrew Hoban, Abbie L. Hoisington, Michael Hoogasian, Sandy Hoogasian, Carlton L. Howorth III, Eric J. Hyer, Derek Brian Johnson, Lisa Kelly, Tracy King, Michael Joseph Kulz, Keith Lapierre, Dale L. Latulippe, Stephen Libera, John Longiaru, Ty Longley, Judith Manzo, Andrea Louise Mancini, Keith Anthony Mancini, Steve Mancini, Thomas Marion Jr., Jeffrey W. Martin, Tammy Mattera-Hausa, Kristen McQuarrie, Thomas Medeiros, Samuel J. Miceli Jr., Donna Mitchell, Leigh Ann Moreau, Ryan M. Morin, Jason Morton, Beth Moscynski, Katherine O'Donnell, Nicholas O'Neill, Matthew James Pickett, Christopher Prouty.

Jeffrey Rader, Theresa Rakoski, Robert Reisner, Walter Rich, Donald Roderiques, Daniel J. Fredrickson and Tracey Romanoff, Joseph Rossi, Bridget Sanetti, Becky Shaw, Mitchell C. Shubert, Dennis Smith, Victor Stark, Benjamin J. Suffoletto Jr., Shawn Patrick Sweet, Jason Sylvester, Sarah Jane Telgarsky, Kelly Vieira, Kevin R. Washburn, Everett Thomas "Tommy" Woodmansee III, Robert Young.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOMMY DORTCH

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in the beginning, Tommy Dortch, like every other person born on this Earth, was endowed with certain unique talents.

The mission we all have in living is to go forth and be fruitful with those talents. I am here today with my colleagues, and also with the family and church members and pastor of Tommy Dortch. They are in the gallery today.

We are here to recognize the exceptionally talented Tommy Dortch and the fruits that we have enjoyed in his living.

My colleagues have told you of Tommy's many accomplishments, and there is so much more that can be said about him. But with the little time I have, I want to leave you with this: Tommy Dortch is a man whose cup runneth over. At the end of each day, Tommy made sure that that cup was empty, not consuming its contents for himself, but in service to others.

His example and legacy have and will continue to resonate profoundly, which is why he is so deserving of receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery.

□ 1215

WE NEED TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mrs. RAMIREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, working people in America are counting on Congress to not only protect but expand Social Security.

The fact that my Republican colleagues had even considered cutting Social Security is unconscionable. From Humboldt Park and Belmont Cragin, to Bensenville, West Chicago, and Elgin, the district I have the distinct honor of representing is home to hardworking people who, like everyone, deserve a safe, accessible, and affordable place to call home.

Regardless of immigration status, working people in Illinois and across the country have paid into Social Security, including undocumented workers who pay into Social Security but can't claim the benefit like everyone else.

It is a hard-earned benefit that people, especially our seniors, count on to cover housing, which just keeps going up and going up.

In order for all people to build and sustain a better life, we need to protect Social Security. We need to expand it.

LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING ON REAL ISSUES

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that noncitizens should

have the ability to vote. Full stop. I think a regular review of criminal code is a good idea and a good exercise for any State or local government. Full stop. I also believe that States and local governments and municipalities have the right to self-determination on these very issues.

Today, I voted on two curious proposals that my colleagues in the majority felt as though we should be spending our time, limited precious time, voting on.

I do not believe it is my place to vote to overturn or disapprove of choices made by the people of Washington, D.C., nor do I think this is a sincere use of Congress' focus and time.

These early weeks of the 118th Congress have been focused on voting on headline grabbing, divisive, meaningless, and unserious legislation. The American people want us here in Washington working on our most pressing challenges, issues like addressing our debt, our economy's recovery, the safety of our planet and communities, and bettering the lives of our citizens.

I look forward to working on these real issues. Let's finish the job.

NOT HERE TO RAISE TAXES

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the so-called Fair Tax Act.

Right now, Oregonians don't pay a single cent in sales tax. Ask anyone and they will tell you: It is a good thing. We rejected such proposals multiple times. It protects working folks who are disproportionately impacted by the undue burden of spending additional dollars on basic necessities.

I am not here to raise taxes on Oregonians. That is not why my constituents sent me here. I am here to help working folks get ahead, which is why I am so troubled by this congressional proposal to mandate a 30 percent sales tax.

This is far from fair. It is not even close. The top 1 percent may not sweat a 30 percent sales tax, but for working families, that could be the difference between putting food on the table or having to go without.

I stand today to redirect our attention to the pressing needs of Oregonians: the need to lower costs and fight inflation, not to raise taxes. That is what I am focused on, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THOMAS DORTCH

(Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Tommy Dortch was and still is a leader of this Nation.

Tommy and I worked together to, first of all, elect Maynard Jackson to become the first African-American